THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) A statement showing literacy rates according to censuses for the year 1961, 1971 and 1981 is enclosed. (See Appendix CXLIX. Annexure No. 172) Literacy data for 1988 is not available as the census is held after a gap of 10 years and the next census is due in 1991.

(c) Although the percentage increase in the literacy rate of SCs/STs is faster than that of general category yet the gap still exists there. The Government has taken up a number of programmes like National Literacy Mission (NLM) and non-formal system of education for the coverage of illiterate population with special stress of SCs/STs. Apart from this reservation provision for these communities has been made in the Navodaya Vidyalayas. The Govt. of India has a scheme of scholarships in Approved Residential Secondary Schools, opening of Ashram Schools exclusively for SCs/STs, central assistance to the States for construction of hostels and providing various types of scholarships including compulsory scholarships and the special scholarships for the children whose parents are engaged in unclean occupations, etc. The incentives mainly include the free distribution of text-books and stationery. Book Bank Scheme for loaning books for the children of SCs/STs, free distribution of uniforms and mid-day meals to increase the retention of children in schools so as to equalise the literacy position.

Opening of Institutes to Promote the Education of Science

3232. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of colleges, out of 5700 colleges which are equipped to impart Science education, which can compare favourably with the standards in the industrially advanced countries; and

(b) whether Government have any plans to start more institutes similar to the Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore and IITs to attract students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) The information regarding the number of colleges imparting science education at the undergraduate level is not available. However, though there would be scope for improvement in standards in many cases, the courses and programmes in the Sciences offered by the Colleges in India compare favourably with those offered in the developed countries. The University Grants Commission has taken various measures to improve the standards in higher education, including science education in colleges. These include prescribing minimum standards of instruction for grant of first degree in various subjects including science, scheme of college Science Improvement Programme (COSIP) to bring about qualitative improvement in the teaching of science subjects at the undergraduate level.

(b) The Government is setting up an Indian Institute of Technology in Assam which would be sixth in the country.

Work-load at Hyderabad Base

3233. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work load at Hyderabad base was depleted from 23,116 flying hours in 1985 to 10,000 flying hours in 1988;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures have been proposed to modernise the Hyderabad base and for effective utilisation of the engineering and technical man power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) As compared to a fleet of 11 HS-748 (Avro) aircraft in 1985, Indian Airlines had a fleet of only 4 Avros by December, 1988, 7 Avro aircrafts were handed over to Vayudoot by Indian Airlines in phases between 1985 and 1988. The major maintenance, modifications and repairs of these aircrafts are still being handled by Indian Airlines at its base at Hyderabad. In 1985, all the 11 Avros with Indian Airlines had flown 23,116 hrs. In 1988, the hours flown by the 4 Avros in the IA fleet were 13,902 which does not include the hours flown by Avros of Vayudoot. Besides, the annual utilisation per aircraft of 4 Avros available with Indian Airlines at the end of 1988 increased from 2,099 hrs. to 2,350 hrs. In addition Indian Airlines is undertaking the major maintenance of 2 Avros of Border Security Force at the Hyderabad base. The work-load at Hyderabad bases has, therefore, not decreased but on the other hand there has been increase in the work-load due to increased utilisation of Avro aircraft by both Indian Airlines and Vayudoot.

(c) The following steps have been taken by Indian Airlines for modernisation and effective utilisation of technical facilities at Hyderabad base:

1. A part of Major Maintenance (Check 'C') work-load of Boeing 737 aircraft has been given to Hyderabad base;

2. A part of a Avionics work-load of Boeing 737 aircraft and Airbus A-320 aircraft to be inducted in the fleet of Indian Airlines from June, 1989 onwards, is proposed to be handed over to the Hyderabad base;

3. Although 7 Avro aircraft have been handed over to Vayudoot, their major maintenace work (Check I, Check II, Major repair etc.) is being handled by the Hyderabad base.

In addition, major maintenance work or 2 Avros of the Border Security Force and one Avro each of the National Airports Authority and the National Remote Sensing Agency, is also carried out by Indian Airlines at its Hyderabad base.

Filling up of Posts in the Central Hindi Directorate

3234. SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have placed a limit on the number of non-Hindi speaking students learning Hindi through the Central Hindi Directorate;

(a) whether it is a fact that 34 additional Technical and other Ministerial posts were filled in this Directorate but no post was allotted to Bangla Medium Section; if so, the reasons therefor and what action is contemplated in this matter;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Bangla Medium Diploma (Higher Course) Course has been discontinued; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what are the reasons for not making separate budget allocation for education in Bangla Medium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) No, Sir. However, enrolment is made keeping in view availability of resources.